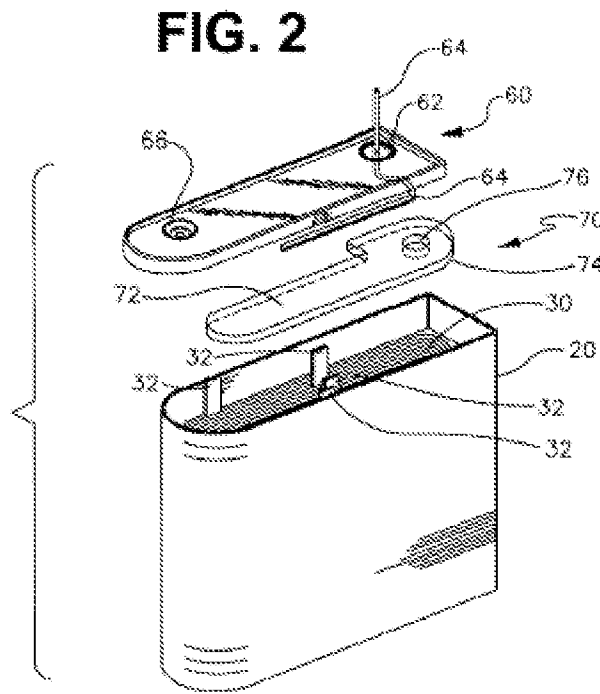


REMARKS

I. Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-16 are rejected as being anticipated by Haas et al. (US 6,060,082). In Haas, Fig. 2 corresponds to the prior art shown in Fig. 1 of the present application as follows:



Claim 1 specifies that the headspace insulator has a receiving area. The office action characterizes headspace insulator 70 as including a surface area that is capable of acting as a receiving area. However, as further specified in claim 1, a distal end of the feedthrough pin is locked into the receiving area. Accordingly, the receiving area must be capable of locking the distal end of the feedthrough pin. The surface of insulator 70 is not capable of locking the distal end of the feedthrough pin 64.

To emphasize the limitation of the headspace insulator receiving area that is already inherent in the claim language, claim 1 has been amended to recite a headspace insulator having a receiving area configured to receive and lock into

place a distal end of a feedthrough pin. Clearly, the insulator 70 in Haas is not capable of acting as a receiving area within the meaning of the recitation in either original or amended claim 1.

Claim 1 also recites a feedthrough assembly comprising a ferrule, a feedthrough pin, and an insulating member. The contention in the office action in the office action is that additional insulation can be considered the ferrule. First, the insulation is specified as a separate structure from the ferrule in the claim. Thus, additional insulation in Haas provides only that: additional insulation. However, to clarify the distinction already present in the claim, the ferrule has been further specified as being conductive. Accordingly, the additional insulation (e.g., tubing) in Haas cannot constitute a ferrule.

Applicants respectfully submit that the anticipation rejection of the claims based on Haas is without merit and should be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully assert that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the stated rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

/Carol F. Barry/
Carol F. Barry
Reg. No. 41,600
(763) 514-4673
Customer No. 27581